

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2008
AT THE ST JAMES CHURCH CENTRE, CHURCH LANE,
FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE

PRESENT: Cllr Roland Cundy, Chairman, Cllr Geoff Markham, Vice Chairman
Cllrs Mrs C Driver, Mrs L Newcombe, Mrs N Jennings-Frisby,
Cllrs S Bromley, W Chapman, E Cox, I Gordon M Macey,
Cllrs K Mayne, G Veitch, J. May (arr. 7.40pm), S Weeks, (arr. 8.20 pm)
Borough Cllr Angus Ross, Mr J Dewhurst, Ms Jo Mason, Age Concern

Mrs Jane Holloway, Clerk

472/2008 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE -

Cllrs R Black, A Pearce, R Woof

473/2008 - MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Main Council meeting on 20th November 2008, were signed as a true record.

474/2008- CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE MINUTES

419/2008 – Memorials for Mollie Harle and Harry Long

Under Amenities report

419/2008 – Correspondence - Flooding Park Lane/Reading Road

The Clerk spoke to Mrs Gan who has advised that the residents believe the adjacent landowners will sign up to the WBC proposals and will contact the Parish Council if this does not occur.

419/2008 – District/Parish Conference October 2008

WBC Parish Liaison Officer, Wendy Crosson-Smith will now attend the January Main Council meeting.

419/2008 - Dept of Communities & Local Govt – Consultation on Byelaws – passed to Cllr Cundy at Oct Meeting who will report at the January meeting.

423/2008 – Remembrance Day Service

The Clerk wrote to thank the police for their involvement on the day.

425/2008 – Fuel Allotment

Christmas greeting cards signed by Cllr Cundy and distributed with donations to the recipients on the List by the members of the Working Group. Cllr Mrs Driver and Wally Chapman confirmed that the Lions Club also donated 30 food parcels which were delivered at the same time. The Working Group recommends to members that the Fuel Allotment donations be reviewed thoroughly and this will be an Agenda item for the January meeting. Cllr Cundy thanked the members of the working group for all their hard work.

475/2008 – COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING – Cllr Mrs Newcombe reported on the meeting held on 4th December

Travis Perkins, Park Lane. No further update received from WBC on the land clearance on site – this will continue to be monitored.

Jovike/Stables – The committee thanked Cllr Pearce for his ongoing efforts in resolving the issue and the assistant Clerk is chasing the Enforcement Officer.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Workshop – held on 23rd September – all comments now shown on the WBC website.

Appeals – 19 Heatherdene Ave – FPC comments have been sent to the Inspector

Appeals – 22 Priors Wood – FPC had no objections to this application

Appeals – Broomfield, Lr Sandhurst Rd – FPC had no objections to this application
Appeal Decisions – Monk Hall, Lr Sandhurst Road – has been allowed with conditions.
Appeal Decisions – Land at The Rides Community Centre – has been allowed with some conditions.

Appeal Decisions – Brunningham Farm, Heath Ride – has been refused due to unlawful change of use from agricultural to mixed use including light industrial and office. Costs awarded against the applicant because of unreasonable behaviour.

Rubec Cottage, Wick Hill – the committee noted that the new dwelling is now occupied and WBC has issued a notice to the owners to demolish the old building. The Planning Committee will monitor to ensure this is completed.

Planning Applications – Appendix A

- Greenacres Farm, New Mill Road – Application for a certificate for an existing use for a mobile home for residential purposes. Objections - development in the countryside and inappropriate development.
- 166, Nine Mile Ride (land adjacent to) - Proposed change of use for siting additional mobile home for residential use. Objections - development in the countryside, inappropriate development. Concern about the trees, backland development, not designated site for travellers, and there are other sites in the area. TBH.
- Landmark, Jubilee Road - Proposed erection of one new dwelling, plus demolition of existing. Objections - to the proposed access onto a busy road. The so called existing access has not been used for 20 years
- 347 Nine Mile Ride – application for garage. Objections to being built in front of building line.
- 20 Reading Road – Cllr Mrs Newcombe advised the committee would hold a short meeting following Main Council to discuss this application which required comments to be lodged by 17 December. (No Objections recorded)

Planning Decisions – Appendix B

- Ridgeways, Wellingtonia Avenue - Proposed erection of two storey front and single storey side extensions to dwelling plus external alterations to doors and fenestration. Demolition of existing outbuilding **Refused**, poorly integrated design, disproportionate scale, harmful urbanising impact.
- Sandy Way, Heath Ride - Proposed erection of first floor rear/side extensions to dwelling. **Refused**, harmful impact on the character, loss of gap characteristics, adverse overlooking.
- 20 Arnett Avenue - Proposed loft conversion, plus rear dormer window extension to dwelling. **Refused**, bulk and mass. Out of keeping.
- 343 Finchampstead Road - Proposed erection of 5 bedroom detached dwelling. Demolition of existing dwelling. **Refused** uncharacteristic facade, poor design.
- 420 Finchampstead Road (land adjacent to) - Proposed replacement of existing Public Telephone Kiosk with kiosk combining Public Payphone Service and ATM service. **Refused**, not properly addressed crime prevention issues.

Cllr Markham advised that Inventive Leisure, the new owners of the Greyhound, Longwater Road, have had their Planning Application approved by WBC. The new building will be a bistro restaurant/pub. The next Planning meeting is Monday 5 January 2009.

FINANCE

Cllr Markham advised developments since last Main Council meeting.

- Bank Accounts – The Clerk has received the cheque and paying books to allow money to be transferred into the new account with Alliance & Leicester. Cllr Markham advised that, due to the current financial climate, the rate of interest on this account has dropped to 0.25% which is about the same for the Halifax Account.

- It is likely that the NS&I Account is also receiving much less interest than before and the Clerk will check. Some money will be transferred into A&L to keep the account open, but the Clerk and Cllr Markham will investigate other savings accounts to see if better rates are available. The members AGREED to authorise Cllr Markham and the Clerk to open a suitable account to maximise the parish council's assets.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| • NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT | £103009.01 |
| • HALIFAX ASSET RESERVE (at 1 st Dec 08) | £ 64664.44 |
| • CHEQUE LIST – DEC/08 | APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY |

Next Finance Meeting on Weds 21st January 2009 – Precept Meeting at **small committee room, Memorial Hall, Finchampstead.**

AMENITIES – Cllr Markham reported on the meeting held on 26th November 2008 – minutes distributed

- 2009-10 Precept – the committee prepared a list of proposed expenditure which will be submitted to the Finance Precept meeting in January.
- Allotments – Cllr Weeks is to arrange a meeting with a Senior Planning Officer to visit site to discuss the planning permissions required. Derek Wiseman of Cemex is still involved and interested in moving the project forward. Cllr Veitch stressed the importance of involving the people on the Waiting List as early as possible. It was agreed a Working Group of interested parties be set up as soon as there is positive news on the viability of the project.
- Notice boards – still at Cllr Cox's house and waiting for John Fruin to collect and install. Cllr Cundy will speak to the Manager, Denise Appleby, at Blubeckers re the site next to the restaurant.
- Water bowser to be collected from Cresswells
- Skate Park – the clerk will write to the Borough Cllrs Stanton and Gore to support their efforts in promoting this project.
- Newsletter – the committee aim to prepare a Spring issue and Chairmen of committees are asked to prepare copy for discussion at the January Main Council meeting.
- Memorial Benches & Trees - Cllr Mrs Driver will complete the wording for the plaques for Mollie Harle and Harry Long and the Clerk will get quotes for benches and plaques.
- Cllr Veitch advised the minutes did not clearly state the committee's intention to fully support the Litter Pick Day.

FOOTPATHS – Cllr Chapman reported on the meeting held on 2nd December & 9th December 2008 – minutes distributed.

- 2009-10 Precept – the committee prepared a list of proposed expenditure which will be submitted to the Finance Precept meeting in January.
- Rebecca Walkley attended the meeting on 2nd December and has undertaken to follow up on several topics.
- The committee met on 9th December to complete their comments on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and these have been sent to WBC.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY – Cllr Mayne reported on the meeting held on 9th December 2008 – minutes distributed. The meeting was wide-ranging and the committee’s ambition is to promote and re-invigorate projects to promote Road Safety. Cllr Mayne thanked Cllr Macey for becoming the point of liaison with the FinchNag and the Roads Committee.

- 2009-10 Precept – the committee prepared a list of proposed expenditure which will be submitted to the Finance Precept meeting in January.
- The committee disagreed with part of the WBC proposals for the New Mill Road/Reading Road junction as it missed opportunities. Cllr Mayne and the Clerk will respond with the committee comments before 17 December.
- Highways Wish List – the committee prepared a preliminary list and awaits the final WBC guidelines for completion. If any councillor want to submit other ‘wishes’ please email to Cllr Mayne. The committee noted that Borough Cllr Baker is insisting on viable suggestions and Cllr Mayne will arrange a meeting to discuss.
- 5 Year Plan – is being updated in light of a ‘Healthy Streets Initiative’ for the Gorse Ride area. This will help allay local fears of residents to school traffic and the expected increase in such traffic with the opening of the new Community Centre.
- Cycling Strategy – the committee made a commitment to financially assist the schools to install cycle sheds and add to available funding from central government.
- Newsletter to be used to communicate these ideas to residents and develop the area positively. Cllr Cundy suggested there be a major portion of the newsletter devoted to the Roads initiatives.
- The committee will continue to fully support the SID initiative promoted by FinchNag and are investigating the possibility for a parish council to own a SID independently.

The next meeting is Tuesday 24 February 2009

MEETING ADJOURNED FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. (8.35 pm)

Cllr Cundy thanked Borough Cllr Ross for attending and giving a short report and also Ms Jo Mason, the newly appointed Outreach Worker for Age Concern.

The meeting re-opened at 8.55pm

476/2008 – OTHER REPORTS

FPMC – Sue Napper, Chairman and Bev Kemp, Treasurer of FMPC, accepted the donation of £5000 towards the costs of the Playground refurbishment, and thanked the Parish Council for their continued support. Cllr Markham’s report on the last meeting held on 12 December was distributed.

ADOPT A GARDEN REPORT – Cllr Veitch reported that although the last meeting was cancelled, he discussed progress with Steve George, the co-ordinator at WBC. Mr George believes WBC funding would be available to develop the Old Nursery Land for hard standing, car parking etc for the Allotment site. Cllr Veitch suggests dovetailing the Adopt a Garden project with the Allotments Project and this will be discussed in full at the next Amenities meeting.

FinchNAG REPORT – Cllr Pearce’s report distributed and noted. Cllr Macey attended the last meeting and advised that the police regard the group as a flagship for others to follow. Rose Green attended the meeting to discuss possible overlap and duplication of effort between the Parish Council, NAG and the Multi Agency Group with GRRA.

MULTI AGENCY GROUP & GORSE RIDE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION – Cllr Pearce's short report distributed and noted.

WEBSITE REPORT

Cllr Bromley advised the members that he is due to meet Ian Milne to discuss the handover in greater detail.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Thames Water Pumping Station, Longwater Road – Fly tipping. Liaised with PB and contact at Thames Water who is interested in siting a WBC camera within compound. A meeting with WBC and Thames Water is being arranged to discuss this further. The Clerk will progress this matter.
- WBC Tree Officer informs the Clerk that the tree that overhangs Jubilee Road (reported by Cllr Mrs Driver) has been inspected and not regarded as being in a dangerous condition.
- RBS – new software updates – to be actioned by the Clerk and Cllr Bromley
- The laptop has been mended and is now functional.

477/2008 – NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

Cllr Weeks advised that two points of dissension remain and discussions continue for all to be completed for the early January start.

478/2008 WBC CORE STRATEGY & SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS

Cllr Mrs Newcombe prepared a Draft Response to the new amendments which were distributed prior to the meeting. The amendments give provision to allow development of green gaps and piecemeal development. The Parish Council UNANIMOUSLY AGREED the response proposed by Cllr Mrs Newcombe and the Clerk will submit to Jim Dunning.

479/2008 – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT – ADOPTION OF GUIDE AND MODEL SCHEME

The Clerk has received the Guide and Model Scheme which all Parish & Town Councils are required to adopt. The FOI Act came into force in 2005 and encourages openness and transparency in the public sector and provides individuals or organizations with the right to request information held by a public authority. The Act obliges every public authority to adopt an approved Publication Scheme to make certain kinds of information routinely available to the public. A local council will be in breach of the Act if it does not adopt an approved scheme and publish in accordance with it.

Existing schemes expire on 31 December 2008 and the Information Commissioner's Office has produced a new model publication scheme that all public sector organizations must adopt from 1 January 2009 – this model can be adopted without modification and such adoption requires no further approval. Cllr Cundy proposed approval for this adoption – APPROVED. The Clerk will download a template to complete and for this to be available from the 1st January 2009.

480/2008 – FINCHAMPSTEAD SPORTS CLUB & LEAS FIELD

Cllrs Cundy and Weeks met Robin Brown, President, John Wood, Chairman and Neil Doody, Treasurer of the FSC on Monday 8 December to discuss their decision to fence off the Leas Field (separately owned by the Club), above the Memorial Playing Fields. The Sports Club was given copies of letters and messages of complaint received from the public to this closure. These complaints include:-

- Prevention of public access to an existing Right of Way that has been established in over 20 years of use since the FSC purchased the land and prior to their ownership. The previous landowner allowed full public access.
- FSC changes to the Leas Field have made it higher than Footpath 9 that runs alongside it. This causes regular flooding on the footpath that becomes impassable in winter.
- FSC currently enjoy full access to the Memorial Field for their members' use but should be aware that closure of Leas Field will cause additional traffic and use of the Memorial Field. Therefore, there will be a detrimental effect on this playing area and cause more maintenance to the Club.

Although, FPMC and the Parish Council appreciate the grounds staff efforts in maintaining the grounds to an excellent level, some interaction with the public using the ground legitimately is unsuitable.

Cllrs Cundy and Weeks stressed their concerns as representatives of the local community and that the Parish Council, as Trustees of the Memorial Park, want to seek a solution to this precipitate action by the FSC. The FSC agreed to meet and re-consider their decision and to communicate this to the Parish Council in early January.

This will be an Agenda item for the January Main Council meeting.

481/2008 – FINCHAMPSTEAD VILLAGE SHOP & FORECOURT – SALE OF BUSINESS

Cllrs Markham, May and Woof visited Mr Adnams to discuss his letter to the Parish Council that requested their assistance in maintaining the business for the benefit to the village after their retirement. Cllr Markham's short report was distributed and the Clerk advised that the Community Council for Berkshire (CCB) has contacts with other community run businesses. Julie Noakes runs a shop/post office in Bradfield and is willing to advise the Parish Council. The Clerk will contact Ms Noakes to arrange a meeting with Cllrs Cundy, Markham, May and Woof.

482/2008 – STANDING ORDER AMENDMENTS

List of amendments for Standing Orders - First publication of amendments and to be carried forward for approval at the next Main Council Meeting.

- Para 1.3 **Amended wording to** *'No meeting of the Council shall be deemed official unless three clear working days' notice of such a meeting has been given.'*
- Para 19.6 **Amended wording to** *'The Council delegates power to the Planning Committee to make comments on planning applications on its behalf direct to the Borough Council. Recommendations from all other committees must be submitted to the main Council for ratification.'*
- Para 23.3 (i) **Amended wording to** *'Every member shall observe Finchampstead Parish Council's Email Policy which sets out expectations for the use of email in the conduct of Parish Council business.'*
- Para 23.3 (ii) **Amended wording to** *'Nothing in the Email Policy shall contradict Standing Orders.'*
- Para 23.3 (iii) **Amended wording to** *'Emails are considered documents for the purposes of Standing Order 26'*
- Typographical errors to be corrected; References to Wokingham District Council to be amended to Borough Council; re-numbering of paragraphs as appropriate.

483/2008 – FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AMENDMENTS

This matter to be considered at the Finance Precept meeting on 21 January 2009

484/2008 – CORRESPONDENCE & FORUM

Correspondence

1. WBC – Official Guide – FPC entry – to be checked for accuracy by the Clerk
2. WBC – Litter Day – co-ordination for 26th April – Cllr Veitch advised that during the Amenities meeting on 26 November the members agreed it is important to tackle the Litter Problems in the parish and should fully back this initiative. AGREED. The Clerk will write to WBC and FinchNag to confirm their support.
3. Business studies student at Forest School – ‘asking what problems foreseen from the opening of a new KFC outlet on A329/B3030’ – outside the parish boundary.
4. Keep Mobile newsletter and Excursion list for Jan-Apr 2009
5. WVC - newsletter

Thank your letters for donations received from

- Gorse Ride Infant school; NMR School; Finchampstead C of E school
- St James Church; Finchampstead Baptist Church; St Mary and St John’s Church
- Wokingham Volunteer Centre; CAB; Keep Mobile
- Christmas cards from the Mayor and Leader of Wokingham BC

Correspondence handed to committees

FINANCE

1. Donation application from the Village Club Trustees

AMENITIES

1. WBC – Play Area Review
2. Cemex Community Fund

ROADS

1. Email from AP re 2009 NAG questionnaire

FOLDER CONTENTS – The folder is available from 7.30 pm on the night of the meeting and will be held in the Parish Office for the month following. If any councillor wishes to take an item, please advise the Clerk.

Forum

- Cllr Weeks advised the members that NMR Junior School received an excellent OFSTED report and it was AGREED the Clerk write to congratulate the School Staff and pupils.
- Cllr Weeks informed the members that the FinchNag were very concerned about incidents of alcohol abuse around the California Crossroads area and the police are due to deliver four pre-ASBO letters to those involved. Any subsequent offences by the offenders will then be logged.
- Cllr Veitch reported on the recent accident at The Ridges/Dell Road junction
- Cllr Cundy thanked all members and the Clerk and her assistant for all their hard work during the year.

485/2008 – DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Main Council 7.30 pm Thursday 15TH January 2009 at the Memorial Hall
Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.